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LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 7 August 1992 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has followed with grave concern the developments taking place in former Yugoslavia. It would welcome the convening of an exceptional session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to examine the situation arising from the massive human rights violations taking place, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a result of the policy of "ethnic cleansing" being carried out by Serb militias.

The Committee notes the deep concern expressed by the Security Council at the continuing reports of widespread violations of international humanitarian law and, in particular, reports of the imprisonment and abuse of civilians in camps, prisons and detention centres within the territory of former Yugoslavia and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These aspects of the tragic situation are of particular concern to the Committee. The Committee would like to join in expressing alarm at the situation and trusts that the Commission on Human Rights would take expeditious and effective measures at its forthcoming exceptional session with a view to putting an end to the violations of human rights and human suffering and providing protection for the civilian population. The Committee expresses its readiness to cooperate in this endeavour within the framework of the mandate entrusted to it by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

(Signed) Luis Valencia Rodríguez
Chairman

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